

100 days with Jesus

Group Study No: 17

Mark 12:1-12

Introduction

This is the first of Jesus' big teachings in the last week of his life. It is a big parable and it is a destiny story. It is all about who he is, what he is doing and where he is going.

If you follow the young Luke Skywalker in the original Star Wars trilogy, you can see him discovering, wrestling with and then finally fulfilling a strong sense of destiny. It all begins with his birth and spiritual awakening, something that is brought to him by Obi-Wan Kenobi. The awakening is a calling, but he is free to either reject or follow his destiny.

The same story of a destiny accepted and followed is present in Harry Potter, Lord of

the Rings and Superman etc. In all of these stories, the word destiny is tied to the word destination. The destination of these heroes is victory in the face of overwhelming odds. For Jesus, the destination, or the climax of his destiny, is the cross.

Discussion

1. In the parable, why do you think the tenant farmers reacted in the way that they did?
2. Why do you think Jesus told this parable?
3. V9 If God has taken the vineyard from the Jews, who has he given it to?
4. If God has given the vineyard to the new Israel, the people of God, what do you think he expects of his new tenants?
5. What are the benefits of living in the vineyard?
6. How do you think we are doing looking after his vineyard?
7. What fruit do you think God expects from his tenants?

8. How can we increase the yield from the vineyard?

Prayer

Lord God,
Thank you that I am living in a vineyard,
Not in a wild place.
Thank you for the soil, rain and sunshine.
Help me to grow rich fruit,
And to give back to you
Something of what you have given to me.
May this be my destiny.
Amen.